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large. It is the source whence the huge standing armies of Continental Europe are drawn, and without it there could not be maintained the costly military establishments that are permanently crippling the industrial enterprise of all Continental nations.—*Speech at University College, London, 1882.*

And yet this same Lord Wolseley has in 1889 proposed conscription in England.

FRANCE.

1789-1889. Peace according to M. Godin is the first of social questions, peace is indeed the first and indispensable condition of production of riches and of diffusion of well being. In this respect the year 1889 opens well, never were pacific declarations so affirmative and so numerous, and never was the sincerity of these assurances less questionable. All governments appear to be animated by the best intentions. The clouds which gathered over the year 1888 have been dispersed and the sovereigns have exchanged congratulations on the occasion of the opening year. Between the great European nations there is at present no cause of conflict; the monarchs have declared a truce; it is for the peoples to secure the continuance of peace. Once more devolves on France the glorious part to raise above the world the banner of Peace; her government has done its duty, and the nation will do likewise in this year, in which it celebrates the centenary of the Revolution which proclaimed the rights of man, and invites the world to witness the marvels of genius, of labor and of Art, the products of peace.

WHITTIER'S PROSE WORKS.*

Each new edition of Mr. Whittier's writings is a distinct benefit, moral and literary, to the world. His life and genius are a beacon light above the confusion of ideals that surge and struggle noisily, drawn here and there by the conflicting currents of modern thought. It is a good of which the worth is beyond reckoning, to have such a man among us, whose voice we may hearken to and follow, and whose faith and ideas are standards by which to measure the progress of the times. An Italian ecclesiastic lately wrote, in a private letter, "Fortunate America, whose great poets are also her great saints!" The saintliness of Mr. Whittier is, moreover, of the most human and attractive type, his hopes and aspirations are like those of us all in our best moments, but he, standing habitually where others attain only with effort and rarely, holds out to us a hand to aid and uplift. The years during which his physical vigor and brilliant spirit, immortally youthful, have maintained him in the prime of manly strength far beyond the seventy years of common existence, have been crowned with the reward of honor and peace. He has had the felicity to see his songs materialize into national law. His poetic gift to which he denied certain æsthetic satisfactions until its severe mission should have been fulfilled, has won the leisure to delight itself in beauty. It is as the poet that Mr. Whittier is chiefly known and honored; his prose, however, is not less characteristic and admirable.

In reading the volumes which contain his prose writings, one receives afresh the impression of the great vitality

and purpose of every utterance of his. He has written upon a wide variety of topics. The conflict with slavery and the advocacy of political reforms have engaged his pen in noble and efficient labors. In his considerations of spiritual things, his prose, like his verse, possesses a singularly clear vision and verity, which seem a realization of the blessings pronounced upon the pure in heart. His personal and historical portraits are just, sympathetic and strong; his reviews are upon the generous lines of true criticism; his tales and sketches are genuinely dramatic, running easily through the scale of natural human sentiment. An especial trait of Mr. Whittier's genius is manifest in his occasional writings—for instance, letters in reply to invitations to anniversaries or public meetings. These replies are not the mere passing phrases of compliment or display of graceful rhetoric usual upon such occasions, but possess durable value of sentiment and language and remain significant memorials. Notable among these occasional letters are the expression of lofty faith which pierced the cloud laid over the land by the death of President Garfield; the magnificent utterance regarding Italian unity; the tender letter to the old schoolmates of Mr. Whittier, at Haverhill, and the beautiful tributes to Professor Longfellow and to Dr. Holmes.

In this new edition of Mr. Whittier's works the publishers have included not a few writings hitherto uncollected, in compliance with the rightful wish of the public, which craves acquaintance with everything that this beloved and revered poet has written. The purity and directness of his style, the passion and elevation of his genius, blended and balanced by his sound judgment, render Mr. Whittier a living classic. And in him honor is due not alone to the poet, but to the prophet who warned, to the patriot who aided to deliver his country from the sin of slavery, to the friend of progress and peace. May the days of Mr. Whittier be long and full of contentment in the land which he honors by his presence!—*The Literary World.*

*The Writings of John Greenleaf Whittier. Riverside Edition. In Seven Volumes. Vols. V, VI, and VII. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$4.50.

WHAT PART HAD GOD AND WHAT PART HAD MEN IN THE LATE SAMOAN DISASTER?

It is probable that the storm would have come as it did if there had been no ships or other vessels in the harbor; or if the vessels had been manned with missionaries and laden with Bibles. This much God did, or permitted to come to pass according to the laws which govern in the realm of matter under curse on account of sin, as is the case with this world.

The presence of warships with their crews and officers was the will and work of men—moral agents. They were there of their own accord or by previously and voluntarily assumed obligations. They might have been elsewhere had they so chosen. The men and means were there through human agency, and the storm was there in the course of natural laws.

What brought or who sent these ships and men to Samoa? They were the representatives or agents of the three most enlightened nations of the world—so it may be said that England, Germany and the United States were present in the persons of their respective represen-